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Justice, Inc. is Indiana's statewide civil rights organization on gay, lesbian and HIV issues.

Justice needs donations of both time and money to help us fight for our legislative issues.

Justice, Inc. P. O. Box 2387 Indianapolis, IN 46206 (317) 634-9212 e-mail: info@justiceinc.org web site: www.justiceinc.org

Current law (Section 245 of Title 18 U.S. Code) prohibits intentional interference by force or threat of force on the basis of race, color, religion or national origin with the enjoyment of a federal right or benefit, such as voting, going to school or employment. The Hate Crimes Prevention Act would provide important new authority for federal officials to investigate and prosecute cases in which bias violence occurs because of the victim's real or perceived sexual orientation, gender or disability.

Furthermore, under current law, the government must prove that the crime occurred because of a person's membership in a protected group (such as race or religion) and because he or she was enjoying a federally protected activity (serving on a jury, voting, or attending public school). The Hate Crimes Prevention Act grants the federal government broader jurisdiction using Congress's full power under the Constitution.

While no law can effectively outlaw bigotry, we can take steps to punish acts of hatred by imposing even stricter penalties upon those who commit hate crimes, making laws more inclusive and collecting more accurate information about hate crimes.

It is necessary that voters contact their Representatives and Senators, urging them to seize this historic opportunity to enact strong and inclusive federal hate crimes legislation by keeping the language of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act in the Commerce State and Justice Appropriations Bill.

Congress Fails Families, PFLAG Vows To Enlighten Membership of Right Wing Groups

Since Congress has struck down broadly-supported hate crime legislation, families nationwide vowed to continue working "diligently and persistently to see that the people's will is done and that this bill eventually becomes law." One of the nation's largest family-based, grassroots groups announced plans to press forward educating lawmakers, the public and even members of right-wing groups that helped defeat the measure.

"As we deal with yet another disappointing and ill-informed Congressional move, we are putting well-heeled fringe groups on notice: You no longer have a free pass to shroud your political views in the guise of 'family,'" said Kirsten Kingdon, National Executive Director of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). "In the days and weeks ahead, we will educate your membership. You have failed them by opposing this bill, which would have extended fairness and safety to religious groups, people of color and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people."

The Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA) would have expanded federal law to include hate crimes based on sexual orientation, disability and gender. It also would have strengthened efforts to address crimes based on race, religion and national origin. The U.S. Senate passed HCPA earlier this year as an amendment to an appropriations bill. Since the House did not act on the legislation, it was negotiated in Conference Committee. None of the Committee's members - including the bill's original cosponsors -- took responsibility to raise the issue in this afternoon's hearing.

"We're particularly disturbed by the absence of leadership in the Conference Committee," Kingdon said. "Again we've seen right-wing groups distort the truth - and again we've seen Congress listen to the Family Research Council instead of actual families. Thousands of fair-minded families in literally every Congressional District in America called, wrote and directly lobbied for this legislation for months - consistently telling Congress that current law is woefully inadequate in protecting our loved ones."

Focus on the Family, the Family Research Council and other groups lobbied heavily against HCPA. "The membership of these groups consists of people who are clearly at risk of being targeted for hate crimes, simply because of their religious beliefs," Kingdon said. "Those members deserve better, and we're reaching past the well-paid, politically-motivated leaders of right-wing groups to invite their members into a broader movement for social justice and equality for all."

Today, the FBI released 1998 statistics showing that race, religion and sexual orientation are the top three factors in bias-motivated crime. Noting the irony that these figures were released on the same day Congress allowed hate crime legislation to die, Kingdon also called the numbers "a loud wake-up call" for groups that worked against HCPA.

"Every American has a right to live free of fear, intimidation and violence," Kingdon said. "Congress ignored that right today, but we won't stop until it's a reality for all people."

COMMUNITY EVENTS

"Singled out" is looking for a new coordinator to head up the group. Any interested womyn please call Lynn at 219-259-6801

CODEPENDENCE ANONYMOUS meetings will begin on Saturdays 9:30 AM at the Southside Christian Church. It is not Church Affiliated. We are just using the church as a meeting place. For more info call Lynn at 259-6801

The Mountain Moving Coffeehouse for Womyn & Children...now celebrating her 25th Anniversary this season; the oldest continuously-running women's coffeehouse in the country! 1650 West Foster, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Andersonville, Illinois for more info: 312-409-0276 or visit www.angelfire.com/il2/mmch

MMCH: Saturday, November 6....7:30 PM.....Nedra Johnson You will be Rocked!!

MMCH: Saturday, November 13...7:30 PM.....Margie Adam Singer, songwriter, composer, and activist.

November 5-7 Eureka Springs Diversity Celebration.. Info: call 501-253-5445 or www.shimaka.com/eureka/diversity

November 6 Womyn's Rituals at Cybele's Sambain/Hallows Eve (New Moon in Scorpio) more info: 231-828-5666
On the web: www.cybele's.com e-mail: oakdrum@earthlink.net

November 12 8:00 PM.. "A Night with Margie Adam"...Christel DeHaan Fine Arts Center, University of Indianapolis, 1400 East Hanna Avenue, Presented by LunaSea Productions.. 317-687-3543 e-mail: Lunaseaproduct@yahoo.com

November 12-13...14th Annual Women & The Arts Festival E. Lansing, Mich. Music, Workshops, Food & Art. Sat. night performer, Nedra Johnson...more info 517-339-6841 e-mail: hansenm3@msu.edu

November 12-14.....5th Annual Witches Gathering for Hallows is a conference for womyns' spiritual growth
Contact Deb or Jade, 608-257-5858

November 13.. 8 PM-1 AM Harvest Dance-Annual Womyn's Dance in Kalamazoo...Lavender Morning fund raiser at the Peoples Church, 1758 N. 10th St. \$5.00 at the door More Info: 616-324-8688

November 20...First Annual Sockhop Festival '99 at the Fountain Square Theatre, 1111 Prospect St. Indianapolis... dance contest, duckpin bowling, live karaoke, costume contest, live entertainment, great diner food, more!! info: 317-923-8550 or 317-931-9464 or visit the website www.indychoruses.org or www.a1.com/wia/ (that's a # one not a L)

KALAMAZOO GAY/LESBIAN RESOURCE CENTER, C.A.R.E.S Building, Lower Level
629 Pioneer Street, Kalamazoo, Mich. 49001 voice mail: (616) 349-4234

LESBIAN GROWTH & SUPPORT GROUP Fort Wayne Woman's Bureau at 3521 Lake Ave. Suite 1, Info....219-424-7977
Also in Fort Wayne...**G/L/Bi/T Helpline** 219-744-1199 available Mon.-Thurs., 7-10 PM, Fri.-Sat, 7-12 AM, Sun, 8-9 PM

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP Every Tuesday 7-9 PM For Info, write: LSG, P.O. BOX 1612, MISHAWAKA, IND. 46544

The LGBT Switchboard is a non-profit organization that provides assistance and/or referral to the LGBT community in Bloomington, IN as well as surrounding areas. The phone line is answered daily between 6 PM -12AM by professionally trained volunteers who direct callers to various professionals &/or agencies for assistance. 812-336-7660 or 1-888-882-5428(LGBT)

NORTH/CENTRAL ALLIANCE Located in the Kokomo, Tipton, Logansport, Marion and Frankfort area of North/Central Indiana....North/Central Alliance, P.O. Box 186, Kokomo, IN. 46903.. Voice Mail 317-454-8868

PFLAG (Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Meetings are from 2 to 4 PM the 4th Sunday of the month at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 17195 Cleveland Road, South Bend. Info.....Nancy 219-277-2684, or write P.O. Box 4195, S. Bend, 46634

PFLAG in the St. Joseph/Berrien County area, group meetings take place the 3rd Wed. of each month. Info...call 616-429-2957

PFLAG in Fort Wayne meets every 2nd Monday at Plymouth Congregational Church, 501 W. Berry St, Info...Jackie, 219-486-2201

SAPPHOS NETWORK A support/study/social group for N. Cent. IN, P.O. Box 118, Kewanna, IN 46939 219-595-7542

THE TREVOR HOTLINE National toll-free suicide hotline for gay and questioning youth. It's open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Teens can call 1-800-850-8078, where they can talk to trained counselors. Visit www.trevorproject.com

Gay & Lesbian Helpline/Peer Listening Line The peer listening line is a nationwide toll free number staffed by GLBT youth who provide information, referrals, and support to callers Monday thru Friday 4PM-10PM EST 1-888-340-GLBT(4528). The gay & lesbian helpline does the same work Monday - Friday 6PM-11PM, Sat. & Sun. 5PM-10PM EST 1-800-399-PEER (7337)

Weekly Event..... Sundays, 9:30 AM, All womyn are welcome to join in a breakfast at the Perkins Restaurant (I-94 & Sprinkle Road) Kalamazoo more info 616-324-8688

Kalamazoo Phoenix Christian Church 6 PM Sky Ridge Church, Drake Road. Sunday School 4:30 PM
Rev. Janice Springer, Pastor more info 616-381-3222

**The Amazon Trail
by Lee Lynch**

WORK OF ART..... I love older women.

That's a button lesbians wear. It's also the truth. Scooter sent me a birthday card which depicted a silly-looking couple swing dancing. "Two minds with but a single thought..." read the caption. Inside, the same couple appeared to be doing The Bump, posteriors crashing. That caption read, "or is it two butts with just a single mind?"

Fresh, that's what Scooter is, and I love it. Norma was the same. If I suggested that driving 60 in a 35 mph zone was illegal she'd answer, "illegal is just a sick bird." Upriver from us live two retired gals, one of whom used to run a gay bar. They had us over to pick hot blackberries in the sun with them last week. I love older women.

The only problem is that when friends get way old, I lose their companionship.

Georgia died this week. She was completely unlike Scooter, Norma or the blackberry gals. Dependent on wheelchairs and walkers, Georgia didn't go out. She sat in her small cliff top home overlooking the Pacific and welcomed guests. Georgia's home was like a salon. I can't believe she's no longer presiding. Georgia loved strong cheeses with exotic crackers. She'd traveled in Europe. She was a Midwesterner migrated as far west as she could get, a horsewoman with zero tolerance for the beasts that plodded by bearing tourists across the sand and for that eyesore of a new house out on the point.

She loved visitors, but she'd shoo us down to the beach, explaining that she loved watching us there. When her lifelong partner Jeannie died, Georgia broke a hip and never walked, or went to the beach, again.

Rings were a particular passion of Georgia's. She wore them on most of her fingers, big bold rings with colorful stones. At the end, when she couldn't communicate, or read, or enjoy much of anything, she'd struggle to hold her hands in front of her face and gaze at her rings. One visitor called her "the woman with the rings and the Calder in the hall." Georgia loved that. She loved art. Her walls held not just the Calder, but Braque, Monet, O'Keefe, Dufy, Hockney and so many others. Yet Georgia was always enthusiastic about my tastes, encouraging my love of art, not overshadowing it with her preferences. I wouldn't think of visiting Georgia without lugging along my latest photorealism find or art criticism from the New Yorker. Her house was filled with gorgeous paperweights side by side with Mother Nature's art -- baskets and trays of polished agates, jasper, petrified woods. I would come up from the beach with a pocketful of finds and Georgia would quickly sort them into stones and lowly rocks.

Georgia was an editor when she retired. She loved books as much as art. Poetry, biography, literary fiction, her shelves were full, her tables piled high, books tumbled off her bed. Many of them were art books: huge color volumes, small monographs, Impressionists and contemporary women artists, the books lay everywhere.

Jeannie was a poet, her mentor; the anthologist and poet Oscar Williams. Georgia was so proud of her that after Jeannie's death in 1980 she published a chapbook of her poems.

Georgia was closeted, but there was no feeling of paranoia about her, she just came from the era of the closet. In her youth she

(Continued on page 5)

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**Groundbreaking study on woman to
woman sexual violence launched**

Dr. Lori B. Girshick, sociologist and activist, has begun a nationwide study aimed at lesbians, bisexual women and transgendered/transsexual women. A focus of Dr. Girshick's work is to understand what labels women use who are sexually assaulted by their female partners or dates. Do they call the violence sexual assault, sexual coercion, or rape? The words women use to describe their experience influence the actions they take to deal with their abuse. Flyers about the study have been sent to thousands of agencies, community centers, therapists, and others across the country. Women interested in participating can request a copy of the questionnaire by calling 828-298-3325, ext. 376. Or write to Lori B. Girshick, Ph.D., WWC-6124, P.O. Box 9000, Asheville, NC 28815-9000
e-mail: lgirshic@warren-wilson.edu

Your participation is confidential. This work will contribute to the development of outreach efforts and support services of rape crisis centers and domestic violence agencies, and will help therapists and others who work with survivors of sexual violence. Dr. Girshick teaches sociology and women's studies at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, NC. She has worked with battered women for nine years, including battered lesbians.



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WELLNESS CORNER

By Susan Myers, R.N., LCSW, CHTP

An Attitude of Gratitude

Love is the power that heals our lives, and love is the power that will ultimately heal this world. Gratitude comes from love. It is the natural expression of a loving heart. Therefore, whenever we express gratitude, we align ourselves with the power that heals us. Giving thanks and praise spreads healing energy and makes our lives and the world a better place to be and live. Every time we express appreciation, we help heal the world. Gratitude projects positive vibrations out into the atmosphere, and our benevolent world responds kindly. (Goodness knows there's enough negativity in the world today!)

Therefore, cultivating an Attitude of Gratitude is essential and it begins by noticing all the good that you already have. Counting your blessings is one of the surest ways to lift your spirits. It always shifts the energy to something positive and desirable. If you're feeling depressed or sad, you can start thinking about all the good things in your life. Begin by being grateful for all the blessings you have. Even if you have difficulty identifying them, look deeply and you will find your blessings. This will change your energy and uplift you. Say thank you to Life for the good that is already abundantly present within you and around you. Each day is another opportunity for you to begin and spread that attitude of gratitude.

Here are some suggestions for cultivating gratitude: * Throughout the day, say the words thank you either silently or out loud. Let God know that you are happy to be alive and participating in this experience we call Life. Say thank you to your self, others, and the world. Let the attitude of gratitude spread and watch how positive energy is transformative. * Keep a gratitude book. Especially at the end of the day or any time, write down all the things you are grateful for in your life. Remember to include simple and basic conveniences and experiences that make your life easier. * When you're having hard times, look at the experiences and say, "I know that this has come to bless me, and I am willing to see the gift in this experience. (Sometimes this is a hard one but you can do it!) May the lessons be revealed to me, and may I become stronger and clearer from my lessons." * Give it away.....notice someone's smile, reflect a kindness back to another person. Extend yourself, even if it's through changing your attitude about someone or something.

Practicing gratitude is simply recognizing that there is infinite substance all around us, throughout the universe and beyond. Not just during November, but in every day. Smile, you are loved.

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Kim and I are independent distributors of a wonderful line of all natural, herbal weight loss products, vitamins, dietary supplements, concentration aids, ect. We approached this venture with much skepticism; but much to our surprise and delight, we quickly overcame that. In the short time that we have utilized the products ourselves—we feel much more energetic and have each lost 30+ pounds. We are firm believers in the quality and efficiency of this line of products and would like to help you become a believer too! So, if you need to lose a few pounds but hate to diet, want to feel more energetic, or want to increase your ability to focus and concentrate —**CALL US—WE CAN HELP!**



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REPORT HATE CRIMES



Justice continues to take hate crimes reports from Indiana victims. All reports are confidential and anonymous. To report a hate crime, call (317) 634-9212 or e-mail hatecrime@justiceinc.org. Justice, Inc. is a member of the Indiana Civil Rights Commission Hate Crimes Reporting Network. Anyone who has been a hate crime victim in the past can also make a report, and is encouraged to do so.

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS!!!

Advertising rates are billed as follows:

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DeKALB FESTIVAL

There is a first time for everything. This year was our first time to experience the DeKalb Festival. And what an experience it turned out to be. We decided to drive there on Friday night, camp out until Monday morning and work during the festival. While we have always been fortunate to travel well together in a car, such was not the case traveling close to the Chicago area. Not that Kim is not a good driver-she is excellent; but next year, this particular passenger will be wearing ear plugs, blinders and be full of sedatives during the trip.

We did arrive safely although later than we had expected. Did you know that those computer generated travel instructions sometimes leave out essential information? When we pulled ourselves out of the tent the next morning, brief introductions were made among all the workers and then we began the process of setting up for the festival. We, however, were not shuttled off to the park to wield hammers, nails, or screwdrivers in the heat. Our implements consisted of the stove, spatulas, a bottle of oil, two skillets, a million little pieces of foil and over 100 veggie egg rolls. Now anyone who has seen the two of us together in the kitchen, knows that giving us this little task was the equivalent to that "Lucy" episode where Lucy and Ethel worked on the assembly line in the candy factor. However, we can say with pride that there were only three casualties among the egg rolls that afternoon. We finished up with the egg rolls at about 2:15 pm and were quickly given an important assignment: drive to O'Hare Airport and pick up FERRON and Shelly Jennings (her accompanist) at 3:15 pm.

Okay, so there we were, having never driven through Illinois before, heading out on I-88, smelling strongly of fried egg rolls, no change for the toll booths, dressed in old, white, sleeveless, see thru T-shirts and trying to make heads or tails out of a very hastily written set of directions on how to get to O'Hare and what exactly to do once we got there. We arrived at the airport

*(Continued on page 6)***SERVICES OFFERED**

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We would be happy to add your service and telephone # to this column for free; just send the information to P.O. Box 845, Mishawaka, IN. 46546

Notre Dame Basketball

November 7, Ohio All-Stars 2 PM
 15, Austria 7 PM

**Notre Dame Volleyball**

November 3, Illinois State 7 PM
 6, Syracuse 1 PM



Barb Mueller
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**One WOMAN
 and Her Dog**

Interior
 Exterior
 House Painting

(Continued from page 3)

acted, playing the male leads at an all girls school. Her gay niece Barb moved in with her and coordinated Georgia's care in her last year.

She adored her cat Jasper and he adored her, sleeping on the hospital bed Barb wheeled into the living room so Georgia could look toward the sea. She loved, she adored, the words repeat and repeat for a reason. Georgia was filled with passions, enthusiasms, with love. She was generous with the objects she loved and with love itself.

I always carry one of her stones in my pocket. It's like holding Georgia's hand, or holding love.

Getting used to living in a world without Georgia is going to be tough. I have one of her beloved paperweights on my desk. It sits beside the miniature typewriter Valerie Taylor gave me not long before her death. Norma's clock is on the wall, chiming every hour, like Norma's voice urging, "Go get em tiger." Scooter called on our shared birthday. The Blackberry Gals planned a dance at their place on the bank of the river. For all their variety and experience and loving ways, I love older women.

Copyright Lee Lynch 1999

(Continued from page 5)

about 1/2 hour late. And, of course, we kept getting sent to different places by people who supposedly knew what they were doing. Finally, a skycap had Kim park in a no parking zone and had me run into the airport to find Ferron, (a simple 10 minute errand according to the skycap). WRONG!! Ferron was no where to be found and she did not respond to any of the pages I place for her. Oh no! I had lost the Festival's star performer. Finally, Ferron's accompanist arrived on another flight. I explained to her that I had lost Ferron. She smiled, pulled out her cell phone, punched in Ferron's number and politely asked Ferron where she was and if she was aware that she had given their shuttle driver a HEART ATTACK? Finally, over an hour later (and after poor Kim had endured continual harassment by the airport police and was very near to tears), we have Ferron, Shelly and their luggage in the car and were heading to the Holiday Inn in DeKalb. Well, truthfully, we did have to spend some time trying to figure out how to get back to DeKalb, but that is a whole different story in itself. We finally got back to DeKalb and ended up eating dinner with Ferron and Shelly. Well, actually, we drove them to the restaurant and back to the hotel and we did sit at different tables during the actual eating of the food. But, let's not dwell upon those little technicalities. The next day, which was Sunday and the day of the festival, the producer of the festival let up know that she was so impressed by our rapport with Ferron that she was giving us the titles of Artist Liaisons. Broken down that means that we were responsible for shuttling all the performers to and from the hotel and festival grounds. It was a very cool experience, sitting in the same car holding in depth conversations with the likes of Ferron, Lucie Blue Tremblay and her partner, Shelly Jennings, Robin Tyler and her partner, and Nedra Johnson. Every woman at the festival was looking at us with envy. During the concerts, we did not have to do very much transporting but we still needed to be accessible to the performers. So, we were seated by the stage. Kim and I were just sitting there listening to Lucie Blue (but not clapping along), when Lucie notices that we are not clapping along to her song. She suddenly stops singing and announces to the audience that Kim and Barb are not clapping and need to start doing so. She continues to tell the audience how great we are and what a terrific job we have done shuttling all of them around. Now, at this point, we didn't think the night could get any better. WRONG!! Earlier in the evening, Kim had bought three raffle tickets for the mere price of \$5.00. She hoped to win some small item. Well, let me tell you, Kim won a sixty-minute massage, two tickets to Susan Westenhoeffer, and two tickets to Karen Williams. Okay, pretty good experience so far. It gets much better. The entire time we are driving Lucie back to the hotel, she is teasing Kim about the fact that Kim carded her at the T-shirt tent at Michigan. When we all got out of the car, Lucie surprised the life out of Kim by kissing her twice. I thought Kim would faint! Then Lucie hugged the stuffing out of me!

We thought we had done a pretty decent job with the performers. But, we did not know exactly how good until they all tried to bribe us into being the drivers that picked them up and delivered them to the airport on Monday morning. Kim adamantly refused to ever go near O'Hare again. Plus, we had to be home by noon on Monday for Kim's birthday party at her parents' home. You can bet this is certainly one experience neither of us is going to forget for a long time.

And, we will definitely be going back next year.

This one-day festival is definitely worth checking out for yourselves. There were great craft booths, good food (especially the egg rolls if we do say so ourselves), interesting and instructive workshops, and fantastic musical performances.



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Your letter and ID number will be published in the next issue. Those wishing to respond to a published single, may do so by

enclosing their reply in a **stamped, sealed envelope with the ID number written in PENCIL on the front of the envelope.**

Place your reply into another envelope and mail to: The Court of Friends. Your reply will then be addressed to the corresponding single and mailed.

#88.....Hi. This 33 year old s-s/d has many interests. Bowling, music, movies, quiet times, family times walks and talks just to name a few. Always open to new ideas. In search of single female with similar interests for friendship/possible relationship. Kids ok. If interested, please drop me a line. I'm looking forward to hearing from you. Sorry, no e-mail.

#89.....Hi, I'm looking to meet new people. I'm 49 and basically fem. I like crocheting, gardening, puzzles, sun-rises, candle-lit dinners and good companionship

#90.....Hi single, white woman would like to meet someone first as a friend, possibly to lead into a more involved relationship later. I enjoy walking, bike riding, listening to the radio and watching movies. I don't have e-mail but would like to call and talk to you and get to know each other better.

#91....Hi, I'm a 45 year-old, white female, 5'8", 160 pounds, gray hair, brown eyes, nice looking, who enjoys trust, honesty, friendship, communication, rock music, partying, festivals and quiet times too. Drop me a line, I can never have too many friends.

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OPEN ARMS MISSION STATEMENT

Open Arms exists to disseminate diverse information of interest to the Michiana lesbian community.

Open Arms is mailed monthly in a security envelope with a PO Box return address only.

Our mailing list is kept confidential and never shared with other publications or special interest groups.

November 1999



BIRTHDAYS

11, Nancy N.
16, Barb F.
19, Sue B.
21, Suze
22, Carol C.
26, Sheryl M.

SPECIAL DAYS

2, Election day, Don't forget to
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11, Veteran's Day
25, Thanksgiving

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1	2	3	4	5	6
					
7	8	9	10	11	12
					
14	15	16	17	18	19
					
21	22	23	24	25	26
					
28	29	30			